

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4972

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0197

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, PFOR, LU

SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS

REF: STATE 037591

1. DCM JAMES D. PHILLIPS IS EMBASSY LUXEMBOURG'S MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS OFFICER.

2. THERE FOLLOWS EMBASSY'S ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS POSED IN PARAGRAPH SEVEN REFTEL. ANSWERS ARE KEYED TO LETTERED SUB-PARAGRAPHS.

A. LUXEMBOURG'S PRIMARY MULTILATERAL INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES ARE PRESENTLY RELATED ALMOST ENTIRELY TO PRIME MINISTER GASTON THORN'S PRESIDENCY OF THE 30TH UNGA. WHEN A NEW UNGA PRESIDENT SUCCEEDS THORN IN THE FALL OF 1976, LUXEMBOURG'S INTERESTS IN THE UN WILL VERY LIKELY REVERT TO THE EXTREMELY MODEST ONES OF A MINISCULE STATE WITHOUT EXTENSIVE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OUTSIDE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND NATO.

B. LUXEMBOURG'S MULTILATERAL POLICY MAKING IS INFLUENCED ALMOST ENTIRELY BY ITS MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND NATO. THE GOL'S FIRST ORDER OF PRIORITY IS WORKING OUT COMMON EEC POLICIES ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES WHERE POSSIBLE. AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOL FAVORS CLOSE COORDINATION OF COMMUNITY

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POLICIES--AND ITS OWN POLICIES WHERE SEPARATE--WITH THE U.S.

BECAUSE OF THORN'S INTELLIGENCE AND FORCE OF PERSONALITY, LUXEMBOURG CAN EXERCISE INFLUENCE WITHIN THE EEC AND TO A LESSER EXTENT IN NATO DISPROPORTIONATE TO THE COUNTRY'S SIZE. THORN IS A PRO-AMERICAN, LIBERAL EUROPEAN LEADER WHOSE VIEWS ARE GENERALLY VERY CLOSE TO USG POSITIONS ON MOST INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. INDEED THORN LOOKS TO THE U.S. FOR LEADERSHIP IN DEFENDING AND ADVANCING THE VALUES OF WESTERN DEMOCRACY TO WHICH THORN AND HIS GOVERNMENT FULLY SUBSCRIBE.

C. GOL DELEGATES TO MAJOR INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS OPERATE UNDER FULL MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS INSTRUCTIONS (IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND THAT THORN IS MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AS WELL AS PRIME MINISTER). LUXEMBOURG MAINTAINS FULL CONTROL OVER ITS REPRESENTATIVES WHILE MEETINGS ARE IN PROGRESS AND ITS DELEGATES REPORTING IS GENERALLY SUFFICIENT TO MAKE INSTRUCTIONS TIMELY AND REALISTIC.

D. IN LUXEMBOURG'S CASE, THE ANSWER TO ALL OF THE QUESTIONS POSED IN THIS SUBPARAGRAPH IS NO.

E. AS NOTED ABOVE, THE GOL AND ITS PRIME MINISTER/ FOREIGN MINISTER GASTON THORN ARE RECEPTIVE TO U.S. LEADERSHIP. ALTHOUGH THORN PROBABLY PUTS EC SOLIDARITY AHEAD OF FULL COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. WHERE THE TWO ARE IN CONFLICT, INCIDENTS OF UNITED EEC-U.S. CONFLICT ON IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ISSUES HAVE NOT BEEN NUMEROUS. IN ANY CASE, THORN CAN GENERALLY BE RELIED ON IN EC COUNCILS TO PRESS FOR AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE EC ALIGNMENT WITH U.S. VIEWS. THE GOL RECOGNIZES THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AS WELL AS U.S. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY CAN BE AFFECTED BY POSITIONS ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES. THE GOL AND THE EMBASSY ARE IN FREQUENT TOUCH ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES AND THORN WAS QUITE ACTIVE LAST YEAR IN SEEKING U.S. SUPPORT IN HIS BID TO BECOME PRESIDENT OF THE 30TH UNGA. IN GENERAL, HOWEVER, IT IS THE EMBASSY THAT SEEKS LUXEMBOURG'S SUPPORT IN COORDINATING OR ADVANCING U.S. VIEWS ON MULTILATERAL

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ISSUES.

3. AS SUGGESTED IN LUXEMBOURG 0109, PRIME MINISTER THORN BELIEVES STRONGLY THAT GREATER COORDINATION AMONG WESTERN INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES IS ESSENTIAL. HE IS PREPARED TO USE HIS INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE AND HIS STATUS WITHIN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY TO ADVANCE THAT GOAL. HE IS WILLING AND

INDEED EAGER TO COOPERATE WITH THE U.S. IN THIS EFFORT.
THE EMBASSY, THEREFORE, RECOMMENDS THAT THE DEPARTMENT
GIVE SERIOUS THOUGHT TO A HIGH LEVEL APPROACH TO THRON,
EITHER THROUGH A VISIT TO LUXEMBOURG OR IN CONJUNCTION
WITH HIS PRESENCE IN THE U.S. FOR THE NEXT GENERAL
ASSEMBLY, TO DISCUSS WAYS AND MEANS OF ADVANCING OUR
MUTUAL INTERESTS IN THIS AREA. FARKAS

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